

name corresponding to a particular hybrid formula; this is the earliest legitimate name in the appropriate rank, and other names to which the same hybrid formula applies are synonyms of it.”

All the parent species of *D. anglica* are known (*D. linearis* and *D. rotundifolia*). After rejection of the ambiguous name *D. longifolia*, *D. anglica* is the earliest (1778) legitimate name for a taxon resulting from hybridization of *D. linearis* and *D. rotundifolia*. *Drosera obovata* is the name for a taxon resulting from the hybridization of *D. anglica* and *D. rotundifolia*, i.e., technically a back-cross with one of the parents of *D. anglica*, not involving any different parent taxa.

Thus, the principle of priority precludes acceptance of the name *D. obovata* at its original (species) rank. There is, however, no reason to prevent naming this taxon at a lower rank under *D. anglica*.

As the hybrid between *D. anglica* and *D. rotundifolia* is usually sterile, it rarely occurs far from the parent species, although it may outcompete one of the parents due to hybrid vigour. From a chorological perspective it does not have a range that exceeds the range of overlap of the two parents, so it can be regarded as essentially sympatric with both.

The present author’s concept for infraspecific classification in *Drosera* is to distinguish subspecies where the taxa are allopatric (whether derived from allopatric differentiation or from comparable trends of independent chorology), and to distinguish varieties where taxa are sympatric (chorologically coherent).

The acceptable (and earliest legitimate) name for the hybrid between *D. anglica* and *D. rotundifolia* is for the reasons above *D. anglica* var. *obovata*. This combination has already been published by Planchon (Ann. Sci. Nat. III.ser. 9: 200, 1848).

The hybrid nature of the taxon may be indicated by calling it *Drosera anglica* nothovar. *obovata* Planch. (pro var.) (ICBN Art.50.1. “When a taxon at the rank of species or below is transferred from the non-hybrid category to the hybrid category of the same rank (Art.H.10.2), or vice versa, the author citation remains unchanged but may be followed by an indication in parentheses of the original category.”).

Writings from the Readership

FURTHER COMMENTS ON FAUNA TRAPPED BY *EUCNIDE URENS* (PARRY EX GRAY) PARRY

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Keywords: observations: *Euclidean urens*.

This follows up on the articles about the insecticidal properties of *Euclidean urens* by Michael Metzler (2006) and Barry Rice (2006). In February 2008 I returned from California where, like Michael Metzler, I went for a hike in Mosaic Canyon, Death Valley and noticed that the lower surfaces of the leaves of *Euclidean urens* (desert stingbush or rock-nettle) were covered with dead dipteran flies. In my case it was cool and relatively wet and the plants were not flowering, nor were there many insects flying about. The fly carcasses were dry and mummified and I found them only on one plant out of the dozen or so that I checked. Barry Rice had the insects identified for me, by Dr. Robert Bugg (University of California, Davis), as *Peleteria* sp. (Tachinidae), a fly that as a larva is parasitic on lepidopteran larvae, and which is nectarivorous as an adult. I did not touch the plant because it looked ferocious and I have long ago learned to be cautious about touching desert plants with silica hairs. I did notice however that while the upper leaf surface only had long straight hairs the lower surface had a few straight hairs, but many shorter blunt-looking hairs. I could not tell in the field if these were barbed or glandular, but a photo-

graph (see Figure 1) clearly shows the multiple barbs of the blunt hairs. Park staff I talked to seemed to know nothing of this insecticidal plant.

It was only after my return that I tracked down the two Carnivorous Plant Newsletter articles by Metzler (2006) and Rice (2006). One of the plant field guides I looked at (Bowers 1998) did, however make reference to bats being found impaled on *Eucnide urens* and I was able to track the source for this observation. Stager (1943) describes finding a dead California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*) securely fastened to a shrub of *E. urens* in February 1942. He also makes reference to “numbers of dead and still living insects trapped among the spines”. In July 1945 Ross Hardy found two species of bats, canyon bat (*Pipistrellus hesperus*) and a California myotis (*Myotis californicus*) hanging from a *E. urens* plant growing at the mouth of a cave (Hardy 1949).

It seems very unlikely that bat catching is a case of carnivory. Burdocks (*Arctium* spp.) have been recorded as catching both birds and bats (Little 1925; Lyon 1925; Johnson 1933), and photographs of several more recent records have been posted on the world wide web (pers. obs.). In these cases the animals were trapped by hooked spines on the dried seed heads, and the function of the hooked spines of the burs is clearly for seed dispersal. Neither bats nor birds are beneficial to the plant and trapping them must be an accidental side effect. On the other hand, for a desert shrub like *E. urens* growing in nutrient poor soils the benefits of extra nutrients in the leaf litter may be significant and could even outweigh the energetic costs of producing urticating hairs. I find it astonishing that this phenomenon has not been noted more often and remarked upon in the literature.

References

Bowers, J.E. 1998. Flowers and shrubs of the Mojave Desert. Western National Parks Association. 142 pp.



Figure 1: Dead *Peleteria* flies attached to the leaves of *Eucnide urens*. Two types of leaf hairs are clearly visible.

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NOTICE OF DUES INCREASE

There have been some great changes in the International Carnivorous Plant Society as of late. Among them is our new online membership system which allows the ease of membership renewals, free downloads of past issues of Carnivorous Plant Newsletter, and much more. Based on recent cost increases for publishing Carnivorous Plant Newsletter, the introduction of our online service, and increased postage rates, the Board has voted to raise annual membership fees by \$5 to \$30. New members will pay \$35 to join. Late-renewing members will not automatically receive any issues missed. If available, back issues can be purchased for \$6 from the membership coordinator.

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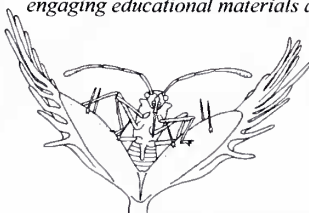
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